

The Death of Darkness and the Last Morning

Cosmic Controversy Series: Part 18

Study Guide

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I. THE DEATH OF DARKNESS

John 1:5

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Revelation 20:14

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:1, 4

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.

John 12:36

*“While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”
When Jesus had said this, he departed and hid himself from them.*

Ephesians 5:8

For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light.

1 Thessalonians 5:5

For you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

A. The Evil Work of Darkness

1. According to the Bible, evil cannot be destroyed unless darkness is eliminated (John 1:5; Revelation 20:14; 21:1, 4). This essential truth can be stated in another way: *“Evil will live forever unless darkness dies.”*
2. Evil is the work of darkness, and evil is darkness. The day darkness dies will be the day evil dies (Revelation 20:14). Likewise, if the Devil were to live on forever, darkness will live on forever in Hell.
3. As children of God, Jesus would have us live in the light. He would have His people walk in the light and live in His *Light* forever. When light has done its needed work, there will be no more darkness – only *the Light* (John 12:36; Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5).

Genesis 1:2-5

² *The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.* ³ *And God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.* ⁴ *And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.* ⁵ *God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.*

Genesis 1:6-8

⁶ *And God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.”* ⁷ *And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so.* ⁸ *And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.*

Isaiah 27:1

In that day the LORD with his hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea.

B. The Pre-existence of Darkness

1. When this world was created, the Bible says it was created out of darkness (Genesis 1:2). That means there was evil in the universe before this planet was created by God.
2. Our world was made in the context of a *cosmic controversy*. There is nothing good said about darkness in the creation account (Genesis 1:4). In fact, in that account there is nothing good said about either the darkness or the deep (Genesis 1:2-4).
3. On the second day, there is only sea, and there is no mention that the sea is good (Genesis 1:6-8). *Darkness* and the *deep* become the twin metaphors of evil in the Bible (Isaiah 27:1).

4. When God created the world, He separated the night from the day (Genesis 1:4-5). The greater light to keep the day and the lesser light to keep the night. In the depths of the cold, dark sea, there is no sun or moon to be seen, so the ultimate darkness belongs to the sea. For this reason, Satan has been assigned in Scripture to the sea (Isaiah 27:1).
5. To ultimately destroy the dragon, God will pull him out of the bottomless sea pit into the light (Isaiah 27:1). At the very end of time, the dragon will make war upon the Christian Church through the Mark of the Beast issue. He will leave the sea to a land that is lamb-like, and he will pursue God's people in the final war. [See Revelation 12:16-13:1.]

Revelation 16:13

And I saw, issuing from the mouth of the dragon and from the mouth of the beast and from the mouth of the false prophet, three foul spirits like frogs.

Revelation 14:6-10

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in midheaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; ⁷ and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, for the hour of his judgment has come; and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the fountains of water." ⁸ Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of her impure passion." ⁹ And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If any one worships the beast and its image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he also shall drink the wine of God's wrath, poured unmixed into the cup of his anger, and he shall be tormented with fire and sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb."

Revelation 16:16

They assembled them at the place which is called in Hebrew Armaged'don.

Revelation 18:23-24

²³ "And the light of a lamp shall shine in thee no more; and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall be heard in thee no more; for thy merchants were the great men of the earth, and all nations were deceived by thy sorcery. ²⁴ And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth."

Revelation 6:14

The sky vanished like a scroll that is rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

Revelation 16:19

The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered great Babylon, to make her drain the cup of the fury of his wrath.

Revelation 19:11-15

¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems; and he has a name inscribed which no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clad in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, followed him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth issues a sharp sword with which to smite the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

Revelation 19:19, 20-21

¹⁹ And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who sits upon the horse and against his army. ²⁰ And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had worked the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur. ²¹ And the rest were slain by the sword of him who sits upon the horse, the sword that issues from his mouth; and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

Revelation 20:10, 14

¹⁰ And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

Revelation 16:10

The fifth angel poured his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was in darkness; men gnawed their tongues in anguish.

Revelation 17:11-13

¹¹ As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to perdition. ¹² And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. ¹³ These are of one mind and give over their power and authority to the beast.

Daniel 7:23

“Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces.’”

Revelation 13:11-13

And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world--he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Revelation 12:9

And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world--he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Genesis 1:2

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

Revelation 20:1-3

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain. ² And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³ and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years were ended. After that he must be loosed for a little while.

Revelation 21:23-25

²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light shall the nations walk; and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates shall never be shut by day--and there shall be no night there;

Revelation 22:5

And night shall be no more; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they shall reign for ever and ever.

C. The Final Work of Darkness

1. In Revelation 16:13, three unclean spirits will leave the mouth of the *dragon, the beast, and the false prophet* to counteract the work of the *three angles* of Revelation 14:6-10. These three foul spirits that come from the *dragon* will gather the kings of the earth for the final showdown which Scripture calls the *Battle of Armageddon* (Revelation 16:16).
2. The world that was created for *the Light* will face the specter of *night* in its rejection of Jesus Christ. In Revelation 18:23, the Bible describes the final rejection of *the Light* by end-time Babylon.
3. In Revelation 17 and 18, the Bible describes the final meltdown of Western Civilization in the failed attempt to establish a New World Order. The political, economic, and religious union of end-time Babylon will arise and then the end will come (Revelation 16:19).
4. In Revelation 19:11-15, Jesus comes on a great white horse with the armies of Heaven to rescue His Bride, the Church, who is dressed in white. He will rescue the princess from the dragon at the *Second Coming*.
5. In Revelation 19:20-21, *the beast and the false prophet* are captured and thrown alive into the lake of fire. In Revelation 20:14, the Bible says the

lake of fire is the second death. It represents a death in which there is no further resurrection.

6. The **beast** is the *World Kingdom System*, which, after the *Second Coming of Christ*, will never be seen again (Revelation 16:10; 17:11-13; 19:19-20; Daniel 7:23).
7. The **false prophet** is the *lamb-like beast* of the *World Kingdom System*, and it, too, will never be seen after the *Second Coming of Christ* (Revelation 19:20; 13:11-13).
8. The **dragon** is the ancient *serpent, who is the Devil and Satan* (Revelation 12:9). The *dragon's* fate is different than the fate of the kingdoms. The *dragon* is captured just like *the beast and the false prophet*, but he is not killed at the same time that *the beast and the false prophet are killed*. In Revelation 20:1-3, the dragon is bound in the bottomless pit for a thousand years.
9. The word "bottomless pit" is translated from the Greek word "abyssos." It is the same Greek word used in the Greek Old Testament for the *dark deep* of Genesis 1:2 before God created the world in light. The bottomless pit is the sea without land before God said, "Let there be light!" After the second coming of Christ, God will cast the dragon back into the bottomless sea pit.
10. When Jesus returns to this world with His angels in all His Glory, He will come in fire (Revelation 19:11-15). This planet will be rendered a lifeless shell for a thousand years. At the end of the thousand years, the dragon will be loosed again for a short season to deceive the nations in the *Second Resurrection* of the wicked (Revelation 20:1-3). Then, the dragon (who is Satan) will be thrown into the lake of fire and all the wicked with him to be consumed with unquenchable fire (Revelation 20:10). The *death of darkness* will introduce the ultimate *morning* (Revelation 21:23-25; 22:5).

II. THE LAST MORNING

Revelation 17:16

And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the harlot; they will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire,

Revelation 19:20

And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had worked the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur.

2 Thessalonians 1:5-9

5 This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be made worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering-- 6 since indeed God deems it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to grant rest with us to you who are afflicted, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 inflicting vengeance upon those who do not know God and upon those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They shall suffer the punishment of eternal destruction and exclusion from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.

Isaiah 66:15-16

¹⁵ "For behold, the LORD will come in fire, and his chariots like the stormwind, to render his anger in fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. ¹⁶ For by fire will the LORD execute judgment, and by his sword, upon all flesh; and those slain by the LORD shall be many."

1 Thessalonians 1:16-17

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord. in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Revelation 16:19

The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered great Babylon, to make her drain the cup of the fury of his wrath.

Revelation 6:14

The sky vanished like a scroll that is rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

Hebrews 1:3

He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Hebrews 8:12

"For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

Hebrews 7:25

Consequently he is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Revelation 20:5-9

⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is he who shares in the first resurrection! Over

such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and they shall reign with him a thousand years. ⁷ And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be loosed from his prison. ⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations which are at the four corners of the earth, that is, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. ⁹ And they marched up over the broad earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city; but fire came down from heaven and consumed them.

Jude 1:14-15

¹⁴ It was of these also that Enoch in the seventh generation from Adam prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with his holy myriads, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness which they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

Isaiah 24:20-23

²⁰ The earth staggers like a drunken man, it sways like a hut; its transgression lies heavy upon it, and it falls, and will not rise again. ²¹ On that day the LORD will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth. ²² They will be gathered together as prisoners in a pit; they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished. ²³ Then the moon will be confounded, and the sun ashamed; for the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before his elders he will manifest his glory.

Revelation 21:2-3

² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; ³ and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them.

A. The Millennium

1. When Jesus returns, the Bible is clear that those who do not love God and who make war upon His people will be destroyed by fire (Revelation 17:16, 19:20; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-9; Isaiah 66:15, 16).
2. The Bible is also clear that the righteous will not stay here. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16, the resurrected dead are caught up in the air to meet the Lord at the Second Coming. In 1 Thessalonians 4:17, the living saints are caught to meet the Lord in the air.
3. Now why would it be necessary to meet the Lord in the air if the Lord were going to stay here for a thousand years? According to Revelation 6:14, every mountain and island will be removed out of its place. In Revelation 16:19, the cities of the nations will fall.
4. If the mountains are gone, and the islands sink, and the cities fall, then there is only one safe place to be – IN THE SKY! We do not meet the Lord on the ground; we meet Him in the air, because we will not remain on earth for a thousand years.

5. For the past two thousand years Jesus has represented us in the *Heavenly Sanctuary* at the right hand of God (Hebrews 1:3; 8:1-2; 7:25). And those who love Him will spend the next thousand years there with Him and with God (Revelation 20:6).
6. In Revelation 20:5, the wicked dead do not come to life until the end of the thousand years.
7. The ***first resurrection*** is the resurrection of the righteous at the beginning of the *Millennium*. And the ***second resurrection*** is the resurrection of the wicked at the end of the *Millennium*.
8. When Jesus returns, the wicked living are killed by the brightness of His Glory (2 Thessalonians 1:5-8). The islands sink, the mountains are moved, and the cities fall. The wicked remain in their graves until the end of the *Millennium*. That means there is no one here on earth to tempt, and the Devil is in prison, unable to tempt anyone until the thousand years are ended (Revelation 20:7).
9. If the wicked come to life at the end of the *Millennium*, then Revelation 20:8 becomes very clear. Satan cannot deceive anyone unless they are alive. When the wicked come to life at the end of the *Millennium*, then simple logic tells us he is then loosed once again to deceive them.
10. At the end of the thousand years, Jesus will return for the last time, and He will return with all His saints that were resurrected in the *first resurrection* and those who were caught up alive at the second coming (Jude 14, 15; Isaiah 24:20-23; Revelation 21:2,3; 20:9).

Revelation 20:11

Then I saw a great white throne and him who sat upon it; from his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.

Revelation 21:2

¹ *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.* ² *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband;* ³ *and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them.*

Revelation 20:9-10

⁹ *And they marched up over the broad earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city; but fire came down from heaven and consumed them,* ¹⁰ *and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

Genesis 8:22

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

B. The New Heaven and the New Earth

1. At the end of the *Millennium*, the Holy City appears here on planet earth (Revelation 20:9). So the deserving question here is: How on earth did the Holy City get here at the end of the *Millennium*? In Revelation 21:2 the answer is provided: *“The Holy City, New Jerusalem, came down out of Heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”*
2. As the Holy City descends, it receives an unwelcome reception on earth. The wicked dead have been resurrected and the Dragon is still here. Those outside of the city attack the city (Revelation 20:9).
3. In Revelation 20:9, the Bible is very clear that the wicked are consumed or destroyed when they attack the Holy City. **The word “consume” means “to burn up” and leave nothing behind.**
4. To a casual reader it would seem that verse 10 contradicts verse 9 of Revelation 20, but that is not the case. In verse 9 the wicked are consumed, but in verse 10 it seems to say that they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. So what’s going on here?
5. In the Greek language there are *three case endings* that describe time:
 - The *accusative* case ending describes the *“duration of time.”*
 - The *locative* case ending describes *“a point in time.”*
 - And the *genitive* case ending describes *“quality or kind of time.”*
6. So if you want to describe eternity you use the *accusative* which expresses duration. If you want to describe a moment in time, you use the *locative* to locate time as a point. But if you want to describe the kind of time, you use the *genitive*.
7. In Revelation 20:10, the words “day and night” are genitive in the Greek. The genitive of time means “day and night” kind of time. The Bible is saying that as long as there is *“day and night”* kind of time, the fire will never go out.
8. **For the “former forever” to end, “day and night” kind of time must also come to an end.** So how long does *“day and night”* kind of time last? It is important to answer this question! Because as long as there is *“day and night”* kind of time, evil will still exist and the Devil will not die.
9. The answer is given in Genesis 8:22: *“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”*
10. *“Day and night”* kind of time does not last forever. **The “former forever” of “day and night” will one day come to an end.** The Bible is very clear,

day and night lasts only as long as the earth remains. If the earth passes away, “*day and night*” kind of time passes away too.

11. Re-examining Revelation 20:10 with clearer understanding, reveals that the “*former forever, seasons, and time*” have passed away since earth has at this point passed away. So then, Revelation 20, verses 9 and 10, are consistent in that the wicked are consumed by fire and that their torment has ended forever with the passing of the old and the creation of the New Heaven and the New Earth (Revelation 21:1-3).

Revelation 21:5

And he who sat upon the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Revelation 21:23-25

²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light shall the nations walk; and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates shall never be shut by day-- and there shall be no night there.

Revelation 22:1-5

¹ Then he showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ There shall no more be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall worship him; ⁴ they shall see his face, and his name shall be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night shall be no more; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they shall reign for ever and ever.

C. A New Day for All Eternity

1. The Bible teaches that there will come a day when the sun will never set, and with the dawn of an *endless morning* will come the joy of an *endless day* that will endure forever (Revelation 22:5).
2. When the former things have passed away, there will be no more death and no more dying. There will be no more sin, Satan, or suffering because the old order has surrendered to *the Light* of the *last dawn*. And there will be no more Devil and no more torment in a lake of fire to disrupt the joys of eternal life (Revelation 22:1-5).
3. The day that darkness ends will be the day that God starts a new day forever. The new order has no room for darkness in it – only *the Light* will rule eternity (Revelation 21:5).
4. In Revelation 21, the New Jerusalem is a perfect cube because it has become the new Most Holy Place. There is no sanctuary in the *new order*,

but the city of the saved is the Most Holy Place. *The Shekinah Glory* of the *Holy of Holies* becomes the *Glory* of the saints in eternity (Revelation 21:23-25).

5. *The Light* of God is the *last dawn* that will never cease for *endless ages*. The return to God is the return to Eden, and the plan for our future is Paradise with no night in it! (Revelation 21:23-25; 22:5).